

CLAIMS

1. An on-board unit for a vehicle comprising:
 - a primary communication system, said primary communication system being adapted to communicate with a remote location, said primary communication system being further adapted to detect a stolen condition or receive an indication of a stolen condition;
 - means for determining whether communication with a central location can be effected; and
- 10 a secondary communication system, said secondary communication system transmitting a signal including an identification of said on-board unit when communication with said central location cannot be effected.
2. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said primary communication system and said secondary communication system are integrated into a single unit.
- 15 3. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said primary communication system and said secondary communication system are separate from each other and in wireless communication with each other.
- 20 4. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said on-board unit further includes a receiver for receiving a signal emitted by another on-board unit, said on-board unit further including means for determining a position of said on-board unit and for preparing a message including an identification of said other on-board unit, a time and location of receiving said identification of said other on-board unit and an identification of said on-board unit, said message being transmitted to said central location when communication with said central location can be effected.
- 25 5. An on-board unit according to claim 4, wherein said message is stored in a memory until communication with said central location can be effected.

6. A system for locating a stolen vehicle comprising:
 - at least one vehicle being equipped with an on-board unit according to claim 1;
 - 5 a plurality of receivers adapted to receive said signal, at least one of said receivers being located on another vehicle.
7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said system further includes a plurality of vehicles, at least one of said vehicles being equipped with an on-board unit according to claim 4.
- 10 8. An on-board unit according to claim 1, wherein said unit further includes a beacon, said beacon being activated when communication with said central location cannot be effected.

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